

Shoshone Episcopal Mission  
Holy Saints John Chapel  
Three miles southwest of Fort Washakie on  
Moccasin Lake Road  
Wind River Indian Reservation  
Fort Washakie Vicinity  
Fremont County  
Wyoming

HABS No. WYO-54B

HABS  
WYO,  
7-FOWA.V,  
2B-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ALL INFORMATION  
FOLLOWS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20005

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. WYO-54B

SHOSHONE EPISCOPAL MISSION  
HOLY SAINTS JOHN CHAPELHABS  
WYO,  
7-FOWA.V,  
2B-

Location: Three miles southwest of Fort Washakie on Moccasin Lake Road, Wind River Indian Reservation, Fort Washakie, Fremont County, Wyoming.  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS Wind River Quadrangle Map) 12.670260.4761070.

Present Owner: Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming, 310 University Avenue, Laramie, Wyoming.

Present Use: The chapel is used for religious services and related congregational activities by the Shoshone Indian Congregation.

Statement of Significance: This Chapel was built for the Shoshone Episcopal Mission by the Reverend John Roberts. It was originally used both for religious services and as a classroom for the Mission Boarding School. The smallest of the three churches now at the mission site, it is used primarily for private meditation.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1889-1890.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Ca. 1888-1889 Washakie, head Chief of the Shoshones, gave 160 acres of Wind River Reservation land along Trout Creek to the Reverend John Roberts as the site for a girls' boarding school and supporting farm. In 1908-1909 by Act of Congress and by agreement of the Arapaho and Shoshone Tribal Councils, the Episcopal Church was given legal title to the land on which the mission was located.
4. Original plan and construction: Log chapel of open plan, built to accommodate 20-30 people.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure: See Part I. B., Shoshone Episcopal Mission (HABS No. WYO-54).

- C. Sources of Information: See Part I. C., Shoshone Episcopal Mission (HABS No. WYO-54).

Prepared by John Paige  
Architectural Historian  
National Park Service  
Summer, 1973

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION - HOLY SAINTS JOHN CHAPEL

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This simple log chapel was the original religious structure built on the grounds of the Shoshone School for Indian Girls by the Reverend John Roberts. It was used for both religious services and as a classroom at the time of its completion.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The simple rectangular structure is approximately 15 feet by 40 feet; the rear chancel is lower and narrower than the nave.
2. Foundations: None.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Natural finish lodgepole pine logs with chinking.
4. Structural system, framing: Log bearing wall with new 2 x 4 scissor truss roof.
5. Porches, stoops: Concrete stoop at front (east) entrance.
6. Chimneys: One brick chimney supported on a wooden shelf above the front entrance extends above ridge line 24 inches.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: One exterior doorway in center of front (east) wall with vertical tongue and groove wooden door attached by wood cleats near the top and bottom of door.

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- b. Windows and shutters: Six-light by six-light horizontal sliding sash.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with green asphalt lock-tab shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Fifteen-inch overhang with barge board on raking cornices.
- c. Dormers, towers: White crosses on ridge at rear of nave unit and chancel unit.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plan: The single floor of this structure consists of a nave area into which entry is made and a lower and narrower area toward the rear of the building which is the chancel area. The chancel area contains the altar and pulpit.
- 2. Flooring: Five-inch pine boards.
- 3. Wall and ceiling finish: Running bead tongue and groove wainscoting with natural finish.
- 4. Doorways and doors: Wide cased opening between nave and chancel areas.
- 5. Special decorative features and trim: Natural wood altar and altar rails of simple primitive design. Sandstone baptismal fount near front entrance.
- 6. Mechanical equipment: Unit heater near floor to south of front entry door. Electric lights have been added.

D. Site:

- 1. General setting and orientation: One of the complex of buildings making up the Shoshone Episcopal Mission Boarding School for girls, the chapel is located on the north edge of the property just to the west of the orchard and about 150' north of the main school building. The front is oriented 60 degrees east of north.
- 2. Historic landscaping and outbuildings: In addition to the main buildings, there were many out-buildings including two

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stables, meat house, coal house, ice house, employee's cabin, carriage house, and a teepee shaped building for the Indian girls in which to cook on weekends. On the grounds of the Mission, there was a fruit and vegetable cellar and an orchard of apple and plum trees. Of the buildings, only the stable and employee's cabin remain today.

Prepared by J. William Rudd  
Architect  
Project Supervisor  
National Park Service  
Summer, 1973

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during the 1973 Wyoming Project undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Wyoming Recreation Commission. During the project, records were made on twenty-eight (28) individual subjects and six (6) historic areas.

This project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was Professor J. William Rudd, Architect, of the University of Cincinnati. Project Historian was John Paige, Oklahoma State University. The measured drawings were prepared by John Uhler, University of California at Berkeley, Architect; and Student Assistant Architects Richard Duflocq, University of Cincinnati, Clayton Fraser, University of Tennessee, and Richard Wyatt, California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. This report was edited for HABS in 1977 by Candace Reed.

**ADDENDUM TO:**

SHOSHONE EPISCOPAL MISSION, HOLY SAINTS JOHN CHAPEL  
Wind River Indian Reservation  
Fort Washakie  
Freemont County  
Wyoming

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Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20001